



GOVERNMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

Speech by Deputy Prime Minister Sabine Monauni

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture

at the
Reception for the Diplomatic Corps on the eve of the National Day
14th August 2026
Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Liechtenstein and to the Kunstmuseum on the eve of our National Day.

This evening also marks a small change in tradition. In previous years, we welcomed the diplomatic corps for lunch on National Day itself. This year, we are meeting the evening before. I believe this new format offers a number of advantages: it gives us more time for conversation, allows us to enjoy this wonderful setting – and perhaps most importantly, it means that tomorrow we can all focus fully on the celebrations.

The Kunstmuseum is a particularly fitting place for such an occasion. Diplomacy and contemporary art have more in common than one might initially think. Both require patience, curiosity and a willingness to look at things from different angles. Both can invite very different interpretations. And both can, from time to time, appear rather abstract.

Some of the works around us may therefore feel surprisingly familiar to those who work in foreign policy. After all, we also spend a considerable amount of time interpreting signals, searching for common ground and trying to understand what exactly others mean.

Beyond these parallels, art has a much deeper significance. It can challenge established views, make visible what is often overlooked and bring people together across borders, languages and political differences.

In this sense, art also has an important role in foreign policy. Cultural exchange creates connections where political dialogue may be difficult. It enables encounters beyond official positions and formal negotiations. It reminds us that relations between countries are not built by institutions alone, but by people, ideas, creativity and mutual curiosity.

We meet this evening at a time when the international environment is becoming increasingly difficult. Armed conflicts, geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and growing pressure on multilateral institutions are shaping our daily work. Fundamental principles of international law and peaceful cooperation are being challenged. Trust between states can no longer be taken for granted.

The cyberattack Liechtenstein experienced last week was also a reminder that the challenges we face today are increasingly complex and do not stop at national borders. Cybersecurity has become an integral part of our common security, and incidents such as this underline the importance of international cooperation, mutual trust and the continuous exchange of expertise. Liechtenstein takes these challenges very seriously and remains committed to strengthening its resilience together with its international partners.

At such a moment, diplomacy matters more than ever. Dialogue may not always produce immediate results, but without dialogue, differences harden and misunderstandings grow. Diplomacy requires persistence, especially when progress is slow and solutions remain unclear.

For a small state such as Liechtenstein, a rules-based international order is not merely an abstract ideal. It is the foundation of our security, our sovereignty and our ability to participate in international affairs on an equal footing.

We therefore remain firmly committed to international law, multilateral cooperation and strong international institutions. We believe that the size of a country does not determine the value of its contribution. Small states can build bridges, promote dialogue, defend shared principles and bring perspectives to the table that might otherwise be overlooked.

At the same time, foreign policy is also about relationships. The ties between Liechtenstein and your countries are strengthened through official exchanges, but also through personal contact, trust and continuity. Your work as ambassadors plays a central role in maintaining and deepening these relationships.

I would therefore like to thank you for your cooperation, your openness and your friendship. Your presence here this evening is a sign of the close and diverse connections Liechtenstein enjoys with the international community.

Tonight gives us an opportunity to step away, at least briefly, from formal agendas and difficult negotiations. It allows us to meet in a different setting, to exchange views and perhaps to discover that a work of abstract art can be easier understood than certain developments in international politics.

I hope that this reception becomes a valued part of our National Day celebrations. I also hope that you will enjoy the museum, the conversations and the evening ahead.

And if you would like to take a closer look at the museum and its collection, three guided tours will be offered after the speeches, starting at intervals of approximately 30 minutes. The meeting point for each tour will be in front of the main staircase.

Thank you for being with us, and welcome to Liechtenstein.